United Nations S/2007/175

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 March 2007

Original: English

Draft resolution on Rwanda

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 918 (1994) of 17 May 1994, 1005 (1995) of 17 July 1995, 1011 (1995) of 16 August 1995, 1013 (1995) of 7 September 1995, 1053 (1996) of 23 April 1996, and 1161 (1998) of 9 April 1998,

Having considered the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda of 28 December 2006 (S/2006/1049) and the oral report of the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda of 13 March 2007,

Taking note of the letter dated 2 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/121) requesting the termination of the measures imposed by paragraph 11 of resolution 1011 (1995),

Recalling the termination on 1 September 1996 of the restrictions imposed by paragraph 13 of resolution 918 (1994) in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 1011 (1995) and reaffirming the measures imposed by paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 1011 (1995),

Stressing the importance of the cooperation of all States, in particular those in the region, with the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 918 (1994) and 1533 (2004) and with the Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004), while carrying out its mandate as renewed by resolution 1698 (2006),

Stressing further the need for States in the region to ensure that arms and related materiel delivered to them are not diverted to or used by illegal armed groups,

Welcoming the positive developments in Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region, particularly the signing of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region at the Second Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 December 2006, and encouraging the signatories to ratify this pact as soon as possible and to provide for its expeditious implementation,

Reiterating its call upon the States of the region to deepen further their cooperation with a view to consolidating peace in the region,

07-28742 (E) 280307

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to terminate with immediate effect the measures imposed by paragraph 11 of resolution 1011 (1995);

2. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2007/176

Security Council

Provisional

29 March 2007

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions and statements by its President concerning the situations in Liberia and the subregion, in particular its resolution 1509 (2003) of 19 September 2003, 1712 (2006) of 29 September 2006, and its resolution 1626 (2005) of 19 September 2005,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's report of 15 March 2007 (S/2007/151),

Further welcoming the continuing steps being taken by the Government of Liberia to improve governance and combat corruption, as well as the significant progress made in regaining government control over Liberia's natural resources,

Expressing its appreciation for the continuing financial and other support provided by the international community, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) for the Liberian peace consolidation process,

Acknowledging and commending the work of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for the important role it continues to play in supporting peace and stability in Liberia, and *welcoming* the close cooperation between UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), as well as with neighbouring Governments, in coordinating security activities in the border areas in the subregion,

Noting with appreciation the substantial progress made in the reintegration of ex-combatants, and recognizing that further progress will depend on the availability of formal sector employment for ex-combatants,

Welcoming UNMIL's policy to promote and protect the rights of women and *calling on* Liberian authorities to continue their efforts to enhance cooperation with the United Nations country team and civil society, in order to aid in efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse,

Recognizing that significant challenges remain in the consolidation of Liberia's post-conflict transition, including massive development and reconstruction needs, the reform of the judiciary, extension of the rule of law throughout the country, the development of the Liberian security forces and security architecture, and consolidation of State authority,

07-28989 (E) 300307

Reiterating the continuing need for UNMIL's support for the security of the Special Court for Sierra Leone,

Determining that the situation in Liberia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) shall be extended until 30 September 2007;

2. *Reaffirms* its intention to authorize the Secretary-General to redeploy troops, as may be needed, between UNMIL and UNOCI on a temporary basis in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1609 (2005);

3. *Requests* that the Secretary-General present a detailed drawdown plan for the mission in his next report to the Council, scheduled for June, which should include specific recommendations on force levels and options for a drawdown, and which should be presented no later than 45 days prior to the expiration of UNMIL's mandate and to continue to inform the Council on progress on the stabilization of Liberia, with reference to the broad benchmarks laid out in his report of 12 September 2006;

4. *Calls on* the Government of Liberia, in close coordination with UNMIL, to take further steps towards achieving those benchmarks with a view to a phased, gradual consolidation, drawdown and withdrawal of UNMIL's troop contingent, as the situation permits and without compromising the security of Liberia;

5. *Notes* the intention of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to reach agreement with the Government of Liberia on carrying out a programme of activities in Liberia, and *decides* that UNMIL's mandate shall include the following additional element: to provide, within its capabilities and areas of deployment and without prejudice to the performance of its other mandated tasks, administrative and related support and security, on a cost-reimbursable basis, for activities conducted in Liberia by the Special Court for Sierra Leone with the consent of the Government of Liberia;

6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/61/828–S/2007/177

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 16
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 21 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The Second Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi in November 2006. It was co-hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Afghanistan were also present at this event.

I have the honour to attach a copy of the New Delhi Declaration, issued at the end of the Second Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nirupam **Sen**

07-29118 (E) 020407

Annex to the identical letters dated 21 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

NEW DELHI DECLARATION

The delegations participating in the Second Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, having met in New Delhi on 18-19 November, 2006:

express satisfaction at the substantial progress made by Afghanistan in reconstruction and economic development;

note that a strategy of development for Afghanistan which is based on cooperation with regional countries creates significant possibilities for reducing poverty and for achieving the Afghanistan Compact benchmarks and Millennium Development Goals in the whole region;

welcome the progress in the implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) and the integral role attached to regional economic cooperation in this work;

recognise that the New Delhi Conference is a follow-up to, and builds on the success of the first Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation held in Kabul, December 4-5, 2005;

further recognise that the New Delhi Conference also draws upon the important work of other regional gatherings in recent years, including *inter alia* Bonn Agreement (2001), the Kabul Good Neighbourly Relations Declaration (2002), Tokyo Conference (2002), Dubai Declaration (2003), Bishkek Conference (2004), London Conference (2006), ECO Summit (2006), Shanghai Co-operation Organisation Summit (2006), CAREC Ministerial Meeting (2006) and SAARC Ministerial Meeting (2006);

acknowledge that the various regional organizations and programmes, in particular the Economic Cooperation Organisation, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme, the Central and South Asia Transport and Trade Forum and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation are making a valuable contribution to improving the extent and scope of regional economic cooperation;

recognise that the strategically important location and centrality of Afghanistan to the surrounding regions plays an eminently vital role in providing a focal point for facilitating greater economic cooperation and integration;

consider that peace and economic stability in the region is dependent in large measure on the progress in stabilizing the security situation in southern and eastern Afghanistan;

recognise that narcotics production, trafficking and consumption impede the economic development of the region;

consider that current conditions, despite the above mentioned security and other constraints, still represent a good opportunity to improve the welfare of the peoples through co-ordinated policies on the trans-regional movement of manpower, enhanced

trade and investment, as well as joint promotion of infrastructure activities, especially in all forms of transport and energy development;

note that the current business climate is conducive to enhanced regional investment and business linkages, and needs to be given the requisite encouragement for the realization of the best potential;

consider that the resources of the region, and in particular water, agricultural and energy resources, can be used for the benefit of all;

recognise that a good base for expanding cooperation exists in the multiple agreements, of international, regional and bilateral nature, to which the countries of the region have subscribed;

recognise further that the numerous ongoing programmes in the fields of physical infrastructure, border management, regulatory systems and related activities, generously supported by the bilateral donors and through the technical expertise of the international and regional organisations, have already created a favourable and conducive environment for pursuing regional economic cooperation;

reaffirm that regional economic cooperation is of central importance to the growth prospects of the region, and that such cooperation offers many possibilities for the creation of "win-win" situations for all;

determine that capacity building, in particular in the case of Afghanistan, should be a key cross-cutting pillar, to be mainstreamed into all regional co-operation strategies, including South-South cooperation, for them to acquire a qualitative and sustainable edge;

resolve that credibility and confidence in regional economic cooperation is best created through practical and meaningful cooperation directed at specific projects of immediate mutual benefit to countries of the region;

further resolve that the regional governments should continue to work towards effective mechanisms for creating the favourable enabling environment in all fields for the multi-faceted, interactive regional economic co-operation and growth envisaged above;

HAVE NOTED THAT:

(1) Electricity trade and energy development: The possibilities to trade electricity under international standard power purchase agreements and accelerating construction of transmission infrastructure have the potential for mutual benefit to several countries, and therefore continue to merit detailed and urgent consideration through an appropriate framework. In this context, it is important to encourage and facilitate transportation of energy resources to all countries of the region. All efforts shall be made to support and accelerate the implementation of various regional and international transmission links. Priority will be given to provision of power and related services to communities located along the transmission lines. Joint steps will be taken to promote and efficiently utilize the hydropower potential of the region. The international financial institutions will continue to examine the likely evolution of regional energy markets so that options for regional cooperation can be properly identified and fully utilized. Afghanistan's potential gas, oil and coal natural reserves,

which according to some estimates may be much larger than previously estimated will be considered for development with private sector participation, as a contributing measure to spurring investment, trade and stability in the region. Afghanistan will also maximise the opportunities resultant from its joining the Energy Charter Treaty.

(2) Renewable energy: Access to clean, secure and affordable energy is likely to be a crucial input in all regional economic development, in cognizance of which opportunities for co-operation in the renewable sources need to be maximised, particularly in sources in which the region is richly endowed, i.e. hydel, solar, wind and biomass. Countries will work towards collaborative regional management of common resources, especially in border areas, evaluation and mapping of resources, sharing of data and know-how and particularly mature and mainstream technologies that are sound, well adapted to regional, environmental and cultural patterns and backed by spares and services that are readily available in the region.

(3) TAPI: The proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline has the potential for new opportunities for regional energy cooperation, resulting in enhanced development, improvement in physical security and overall economic benefits.

(4) Trade facilitation: Countries will seek to bring together their regulatory systems and procedures so that the barriers to cross border movements of goods and services are progressively reduced, transaction costs and times minimized, and bilateral border management and infrastructure including visas, trucking and customs regulations improved – which will strengthen security, encourage legitimate trade and interdict drugs and other illicit trade. To enhance regional trade, countries will work together to establish efficient and transparent trade practices. For better co-ordination, General Directorates of Transit and Trade Facilitation will be established, as appropriate. For management of border port facilities, public-private partnership will be encouraged.

(5) Transport: Countries will continue to work together and with regional and international organizations to implement, and where necessary, revise and update existing bilateral, trilateral and multilateral trade and transit conventions and agreements; examine in depth the ways to obtain maximum advantage from the creation, development and maintenance of inter-regional transit routes with a view to selecting the few most promising routes and prioritizing investments accordingly; and pay careful attention to appropriate and progressive opening of regional markets for transport. Focus will particularly be on the development of the East-West and North-South corridors, which are at various stages of development. Countries will also encourage and facilitate transportation of energy resources within the region. Specific bilateral and trilateral land transit problems will be resolved in a fair and equitable manner, consistent with regional and international obligations and best practices to which they are parties.

(6) Investment and business climate: To maximize opportunities, focus will be on increased information sharing; encouragement of enterprise culture; creation of well managed, mutually beneficial markets and industrial zones; operationalisation of regional and bilateral trade, investment and transit agreements; preferential market

access to selected products, harmonisation of quality and standards systems; simplification of visa regimes; and transformation of the informal sector through incentives generated by liberalization and reform.

(7) Agriculture: It is one of the main pillars for growth and revitalisation of regional economy. Focus will be on integrated rural financial system, including regional cooperation in developing a system specifically for Afghanistan, production of high value commodities including perennial horticulture and livestock having commercial priorities, encouragement to growth of private sector for marketing and processing, reduction of tariffs, establishment of unified quality control mechanisms, access to and better knowledge of the regional markets, ease of cross-border movement of products, pooling of national capacities for agricultural research, physical and institutional infrastructure and training.

(8) Capacity building: Countries will work towards development of skills, education and training of their work force which is crucial to providing comparative edge and sustainability to regional co-operation in all fields.

(9) Counter Narcotics: All regional cooperation activities need to strengthen law enforcement mechanisms and prevent the movement of illicit goods, particularly narcotics and precursor chemicals across borders.

HAVE DECIDED THAT:

(1) Regional countries will undertake stronger credibility and confidence building measures, vital for sustained and interactive regional co-operation.

(2) The short-term focus of regional economic co-operation will be on practical win-win projects, which benefit two or more countries and can subsequently fit into wider regional economic co-operation paradigm, notably in the fields of energy, transport and trade, agriculture and mining.

(3) A higher level political commitment will be accorded for such projects.

(4) Afghanistan's development will continue to remain a central factor in assuring the growth, stability, and prosperity of the region. Countries of the region will take practical steps in adopting the necessary policies in this direction.

(5) There will be better information sharing, via prioritisation of key issues, among the countries and regional organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

(6) Regional organizations will continue to pursue the scope for further strengthening mechanisms and opportunities for regional co-operation, including public-private partnership initiatives.

(7) ADB will undertake a study on regional integration strategies and will share key findings at the next Conference.

(8) Regional countries will intensify efforts, at all appropriate fora, to remove obstacles to overland trade and transit between countries and regions.

(9) Regional countries will work towards aviation liberalisation for greater regional connectivity.

(10) Countries and organisations will assist Afghanistan to become an energy bridge in the region and to develop regional trade through supporting initiatives in bilateral/multilateral cross-border energy projects. They will also work towards development of regional renewable energy projects. Work will be accelerated on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline to develop a technically and commercially viable project.

(11) Countries will develop modalities for establishment of a regional technical committee to review impediments to agricultural trade in transit and to propose solutions.

(12) Regional countries will work towards concluding/broadening the existing preferential trade agreements, including preferential tariffs for Afghanistan.

(13) Regional countries will explore further specific project opportunities having regional relevance, in potential areas of investment i.e. energy, agriculture, transportation, mines, and financial services.

(14) The regional countries will encourage forging of institutional linkages with training institutes in the respective countries with a view towards capacity building of their work force, with the long-term objective of establishing regional training institutes in specialised areas of mutual benefit to all.

(15) The Afghan Government will take the lead in following up the decisions and considerations of this Conference.

(16) The regional countries will meet again at Ministerial level in a year's time to further review progress in regional economic co-operation.

(17) In preparation for the next meeting:

- National focal points will be strengthened to help participating countries evaluate and implement regional initiatives. The Afghan Government will distribute the relevant papers from this Conference to the national focal points and lead necessary follow-up measures;
- These focal points, on their part, will take forward the outputs of the Technical Working Groups of this Conference appropriately and effectively.

United Nations S/2007/178

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 29 March 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1730 (2006), adopted by the Security Council on 19 December 2006, concerning the establishment of a focal point to receive de-listing requests and to perform the tasks described in the annex to the resolution. In paragraph 1 of the resolution the Council requested me to establish the focal point within the Secretariat (Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch).

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that a focal point for de-listing has been established within the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch. The contact details for the focal point are as follows:

Focal Point for De-listing
Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch
Room S-3055-E
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
Tel. 917 367 9448
Fax. 212 963 1300/3778
Email: delisting@un.org

I should be grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-29100 (E) 300307

United Nations A/61/833–S/2007/179

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 108 (e)
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 29 March 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the joint statement adopted by the participants in the Fourth General Meeting of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its associated institutions, which was held at CARICOM headquarters in Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, on 25 and 26 January 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council in response to resolution 1631 (2005). I also request that the joint statement be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 108 (e).

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-29112 (E) 040407

Annex

Joint statement of the Fourth General Meeting of representatives of the Caribbean Community and the United Nations system

25 and 26 January 2007, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana

1. The Fourth General Meeting of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and its associated institutions was convened at the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana on 25 and 26 January 2007. The United Nations delegation was led by the representative of the Secretary-General, Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The delegation of the Caribbean Community was led by Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite, Deputy Secretary-General. Both heads of delegation co-chaired the plenary sessions of the meeting, which enjoyed wide participation of representatives of CARICOM and its associated institutions, and of representatives of the United Nations system. Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General of CARICOM, participated in the closing session of the meeting.

2. The Deputy Secretary-General of CARICOM made an opening statement. The representative of the United Nations Secretary-General read a message from Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. Deputy Secretary-General Applewhaite provided the meeting with a comprehensive update on the region's success thus far towards the construction and implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy with a view to effectively and creatively fulfilling its ultimate mandate of improving the standard of living and quality of life of the peoples of the Caribbean Community through sustainable development. She highlighted the challenges faced in pursuit of this objective, within the context of a global economic environment adversely impacted by globalization and trade liberalization.

4. Detailing the status of implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, she emphasized that the construct and modus operandi of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy reflect the Community's approach to integration as an interdisciplinary exercise, with such issues as poverty reduction, food security, agriculture, environment, information and communication technology, culture, gender, security and governance being treated systematically as cross-cutting themes rather than development objectives in themselves; an integrated approach critical to the sustainable development of the small, vulnerable States of the Caribbean. She expressed appreciation to the United Nations for its continued support to the Community, particularly to Haiti and to Grenada following Hurricane Ivan.

5. The message of the United Nations Secretary-General reiterated the strong commitment of the United Nations system to support CARICOM in its efforts to pursue regional economic and social development and tackle pressing issues such as transnational crime and HIV/AIDS. The United Nations system's ongoing effort to address the special development needs of the region, particularly in the context of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, was underscored.

6. The CARICOM side also shared its thoughts on the development paradigm of the region with regard to economic and social development and governance.

7. The representative of the United Nations Secretary-General identified strengthening the institutional framework of support at both the regional and national levels to advance the development objectives of the Caribbean Community as the fundamental objective of CARICOM-United Nations cooperation. He urged the meeting to adopt a practical and realistic approach towards the development of those priorities identified by the region which could be meaningfully undertaken with United Nations support.

8. The meeting received detailed CARICOM presentations outlining strategic objectives for the coming biennium, covering the following areas:

(a) Implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and development of the framework for the Single Economy;

(b) Institutional development and strengthening of the Community;

(c) Advancing human and social development;

(d) Enhancing the strategic position of CARICOM within the hemispheric and global environment;

(e) Strengthening governance and security within the Community;

(f) Information and communication technology for development;

(g) Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Fourth Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(h) Resource mobilization.

9. Bilateral and multilateral consultations among representatives of CARICOM and its associated institutions and United Nations system representatives were held, providing the opportunity for the development and exploration of ongoing and potential areas of cooperation within the framework of the programme priorities identified.

10. The meeting welcomed the major accomplishments of the Community in deepening the process of regional integration, including progress in the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, and publication by CARICOM of the *Caribbean Trade and Investment Report, 2005*. The meeting also acknowledged progress at the regional and national levels in addressing a range of social challenges including children and youth, population, reproductive health, ageing, migration, and efforts at gender mainstreaming. The need for support to enhance public education, particularly within the context of facilitating implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and for campaigns promoting control of non-communicable diseases was underscored. The United Nations system reiterated its commitment of continued support for CARICOM efforts in these areas.

11. The meeting acknowledged that much has been accomplished towards deepening the cooperation between CARICOM and the United Nations, and it welcomed the degree of substantive and technical support provided by the United Nations system to the Caribbean Community, including its member States and associated institutions.

12. The meeting took note of the region's agenda for creating decent work for all and in addressing all of the attendant challenges in the area of labour productivity and workers rights, and expressed appreciation for the contribution of the United Nations system in the provision of tangible support towards achieving this agenda.

13. The meeting welcomed the reaffirmation of United Nations support for the strengthening of governance, and for the region's efforts to combat transnational crime, particularly in building the region's capacity to implement legal and political instruments related to the eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as well as to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Given the ongoing threat to the security of the region posed by narco-trafficking, the meeting took note of CARICOM concern at the recent closure of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the region.

14. The meeting also noted with concern the continuing negative impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the region but recorded positive developments in the CARICOM-United Nations partnership in this area, resulting in an increased awareness and public education on the disease and action at the level of national and regional strategic planning, and in the exchange of information and provision of technical advice.

15. The United Nations system took particular note of the focus and new emphasis of CARICOM on non-communicable diseases and the regional summit scheduled for later in 2007.

16. Progress through joint efforts to address the full and effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for its further implementation was acknowledged. The meeting stressed the need to move expeditiously to the practical implementation of the Mauritius Strategy at the regional, subregional and national levels. The importance of agricultural development and food security received close attention in CARICOM — United Nations collaboration. In this context, the meeting welcomed progress made in the Jagdeo Initiative, which has the support of several United Nations and CARICOM partners.

17. Support for the strengthening of the Community's resilience through disaster management, preparedness and environmental sustainability was a high priority for follow-up action. Since effective implementation of a comprehensive disaster management strategy is demanding a multidisciplinary approach, the United Nations system reaffirmed its commitment of the widest participation in a collective approach to address this challenge, in collaboration with CARICOM and its associated institutions.

18. CARICOM and the United Nations agreed to jointly pursue the full and effective implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on the review of progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, since this document accurately reflects the thinking of the international community with respect to international cooperation for development on which the follow-up for collaboration between CARICOM and the United Nations should be based.

19. The contribution of both CARICOM and the United Nations, through MINUSTAH, in bringing a greater degree of political and social stability to Haiti, and the readmission of Haiti to the Councils of the Community was welcomed. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to supporting that country in its efforts to achieve

sustainable economic development and enhanced social and political stability. The United Nations encouraged CARICOM to become a partner in the integrated mission in Haiti.

20. The United Nations received the requests of CARICOM for support in training and capacity-building, ICT development, research, analysis and advisory services to support informed decision-making and policy formulation, as well as public education at national and regional levels. The meeting agreed that this should be an area for active, system-wide follow-up.

21. The meeting concluded that attention be given to the establishment of an appropriate regional programmatic framework for the pursuit of follow-up and coordination of the priority areas for collaboration. It was also agreed that a mechanism for indicating specific areas of cooperation to monitor and measure progress in implementation should be designed and implemented.

22. The meeting recognized the importance of addressing the development challenges facing CARICOM member States, both at the national and regional levels, and of the commitments and agreements entered into by them at the international level. It also recognized that these obligations impose a heavy burden on limited national and regional resources. It was agreed that CARICOM and the United Nations would examine ways in which support could be coherently provided to CARICOM, its member States and associated institutions in meeting these obligations, ensuring national and regional ownership of both process and outcome.

23. It was agreed that the United Nations would host the next meeting in 2008 to evaluate progress made in their cooperation, at a date and venue to be determined.

24. It was also agreed that the report on the meeting would be finalized shortly and circulated to all participants.

United Nations S/2007/180

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 29 March 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note verbale dated 29 March 2007 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the British Embassy in Tehran on the violation of Iranian territorial waters by two British naval vessels (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehdi **Danesh-Yazdi**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-29106 (E) 300307

Annex to the letter dated 29 March 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the British Embassy in Tehran and draws the attention of the latter to the following.

According to the information received from relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, two British naval vessels manned by 15 fully equipped crews trespassed on Iran's territorial waters on 3 Farvardin 1386 (23 March 2007). Since similar acts had taken place in the past and prior warning had been given against the repetition of such acts, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran protests strongly against this illegal act in violating Iranian territorial waters, emphasizes the respect for the rules and principles of international law concerning the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, underlines the responsibility of the British Government for the consequences of such violation, and calls for the guarantee to avoid the recurrence of such acts.

It will be appreciated if the esteemed Embassy conveys this note to the relevant authorities of its Government and informs this Ministry of any explanation in this regard.

United Nations S/2007/181

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 April 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 31 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 74th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 29 March 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nana **Effah-Apenteng**
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

07-29329 (E) 040407

Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 74th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 74th meeting held on 29 March 2007, adopted the following decision on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire:

Council,

1. **Recalls** its Communiqué PSC/PR/Comm.2 (LXXIII) adopted on 19 March 2007 in which it decided, among other things, to fully endorse the Ouagadougou Political Agreement of 4 March 2007;

2. **Welcomes** the signing, on 26 March 2007, of the Additional Agreement between President Laurent Gbagbo and Guillaume Soro, Secretary-General of the *Force Nouvelles*, under the aegis of President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, Current Chairperson of ECOWAS, through which the signatory parties have decided to designate Guillaume Soro as the new Prime Minister. Council further **reiterates its appreciation** of the efforts being deployed by President Blaise Compaoré to facilitate the successful outcome of the peace and reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire;

3. **Decides** to endorse the Additional Agreement as well as the designation of Guillaume Soro as Prime Minister;

4. **Commends** the outgoing Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny for his tireless efforts aimed at facilitating the successful outcome of the peace and reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire;

5. **Takes note** of the Presidential Statement on Côte d'Ivoire adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 28 March 2007, whereby the Council, taking note of the recommendations of ECOWAS and of the AU, endorsed the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, took note of the parties' agreement on the required institutional arrangements, and expressed its support to the appointment of Guillaume Soro as Prime Minister;

6. **Invites** the United Nations Security Council to endorse this decision and to take all necessary measures, including the adoption of a new resolution, to help the Ivorian parties keep the momentum generated by the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and the Additional Agreement to enable them to successfully conclude the peace and reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire, which should lead on to free, open, transparent and democratic elections;

7. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2007/182

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 April 2007

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1716 (2006) of 13 October 2006, by which the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 15 April 2007. It provides an update of the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, since my report of 11 January 2007 (S/2007/15).

2. My Special Representative, Jean Arnault, continued to lead the Mission. He was assisted by the Chief Military Observer, Major General Niaz Muhammad Khan Khattak (Pakistan). The strength of UNOMIG on 1 April 2007 stood at 129 military observers and 13 police officers (see annex).

II. Political process

3. During the reporting period, UNOMIG continued its efforts to facilitate dialogue between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, to prevent escalation of tensions and to maintain stability in the zone of conflict. The three priorities endorsed by the United Nations-chaired high-level meetings of the Group of Friends (see S/2004/315, paras. 5-7) and agreements between the Presidents of the Russian Federation and Georgia reached in Sochi (see S/2003/412, para. 5) remained on the agenda for dialogue between the sides. Efforts and activities in this framework are aimed at improving confidence between the sides and facilitating meaningful negotiations on a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, taking into account the principles contained in the document entitled "Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi", its transmittal letter (see S/2002/88, para. 3) and additional ideas by the sides.

4. My Special Representative maintained regular contacts throughout the period with both sides, as well as the Group of Friends, including in their respective capitals. During the reporting period, UNOMIG facilitated visits to the zone of conflict and Sukhumi, including by a European Union assessment mission led by Hugues Mingarelli, European Commission Director for Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, which was joined by Peter Semneby, the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus; Thomas Hammarberg,

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Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights; and visits in January and April by representatives of the Tbilisi-based Group of Friends.

5. Shortly after the Security Council's session in January on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, on 12 and 13 February senior representatives of the Group of Friends met in Geneva under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, and with the participation of my Special Representative. The meeting discussed the peace process and ways to promote dialogue between the sides to the conflict and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1716 (2006). The Georgian and Abkhaz delegations, led by the State Minister for Conflicts Resolution Merab Antadze and de facto Foreign Minister Sergey Shamba, respectively, took part in the meeting. The United Nations and the Group of Friends reiterated their support for a negotiated solution and the relevance of Security Council resolutions in this respect. Noting the primary responsibility of the two sides in the settlement of the conflict, they believed that a comprehensive political solution could be achieved through dialogue and that the situation on the ground in the areas of security, return of internally displaced persons and refugees; and rehabilitation and development could and must be improved. They also reiterated the readiness of the international community to assist.

6. In their separate discussions with the Friends, the sides stated their views and positions regarding the peace process and reviewed progress achieved in implementing Security Council resolution 1716 (2006). The Georgian side expressed its readiness for direct dialogue with the Abkhaz side at all levels and without preconditions, including a meeting at the highest level. Acknowledging the deteriorating security situation in Gali, it proposed high-level meetings on security issues, and offered to enhance transparency and confidence in the upper Kodori valley, including through inclusion of Abkhaz representatives in monitoring visits. It agreed on the need for a regime of notification and verification in the security zone. It reaffirmed its commitment to rehabilitation activities as part of the existing programme funded by the European Commission. The Georgian side reaffirmed the fundamental principle of the right of return for all internally displaced persons and refugees, including beyond the Gali district. In this respect, it agreed to move forward on the implementation of the strategy paper on returns of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (see S/2005/453, para. 5). The Georgian side stated its readiness to facilitate contacts between the Abkhaz side and the Abkhaz community in Turkey. For its part, the Abkhaz side stated that the resumption of dialogue required strict adherence to previous agreements. In particular, it emphasised the need for the withdrawal of armed personnel from the upper Kodori valley. Expressing its readiness to resolve the situation there, the Abkhaz side suggested a gradual transfer of law enforcement functions to the local community together with the possible involvement of international police. The Abkhaz side also underlined the need to reduce tensions in the Gali district in the light of recent violent incidents (see S/2007/15, paras. 9 and 17), and proposed to reinvigorate existing security mechanisms to that effect. The Abkhaz side supported the idea of a meeting at the highest level, provided that it led to concrete outcomes, such as the signing of a document on the non-resumption of hostilities or the lifting of economic restrictions. It also expressed its readiness to implement the UNHCR strategy paper on returns, in the first instance to the Gali district.

7. The Friends encouraged both sides to resume dialogue. They stressed in particular the need for immediate engagement on security issues. Acknowledging progress on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1716 (2006), the Friends urged the parties to continue to take concrete steps on confidence-building measures. They highlighted the need to refrain from any action that could impede progress or undermine confidence, and urged the sides to take into account one another's sensitivities and to cooperate to deescalate tensions. With respect to the Kodori valley, they noted the need to ensure compliance with the Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994, as well as the maintenance of law and order. They reaffirmed the right to return of internally displaced persons and refugees to Abkhazia, Georgia, and encouraged the sides to focus on practical steps to improve conditions for returns, in the first instance to the Gali district. The Friends deemed it useful to keep under review the contribution of the international presence, including police, to the implementation of the 1994 Moscow Agreement and the Security Council resolutions with a view to strengthening the confidence of the sides and the communities affected by the conflict.

8. In the aftermath of the Geneva meeting, the Abkhaz side maintained its position that the resumption of dialogue on non-technical issues required meeting its concerns related to the upper Kodori valley, namely the withdrawal of Georgian armed personnel and the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia. It also insisted on the release of Pridon Chakaberia (see S/2007/15, paras. 8 and 16) and David Sigua (see para. 15 below), both ethnic Georgians working in the Gali district's de facto administrative structures. As a gesture of its goodwill, on 14 February the Abkhaz side released Levan Mamasakhlisi, who was serving a 14-year sentence on charges of terrorism.

9. While trying to improve conditions for the resumption of dialogue, my Special Representative continued to emphasize to both sides the need to address the provisions of resolution 1716 (2006) concerning each of them. He also underlined the need to convene as soon as possible the Steering Committee for the rehabilitation programme funded by the European Commission for the zone of conflict (see S/2006/19, para. 6) in order to ensure that the programme responded to their concerns. Progress in this regard is reflected in section III of the present report.

10. Simultaneously, the controversy over peacekeeping formats continued (see S/2006/771, para. 5). While the Abkhaz side opposed any change to the current format, the Government of Georgia presented its case for a change in the peacekeeping format to the European Union and other international actors. Controversy also continued with regard to the role of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia. The Georgian side encouraged the international community to engage with it, while the Abkhaz side remained adamantly opposed to this approach.

11. In February and March the Abkhaz side conducted self-styled local and parliamentary elections. They were denounced by the Georgian side, and deemed illegitimate by the European Union, the United States of America, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. UNOMIG, guided by relevant Security Council resolutions on the matter, did not observe these self-styled elections.

III. Developments in the Mission's area of responsibility

Gali sector

12. In my previous report, I noted that since early December the focus of tensions between the two sides had shifted to the zone of conflict, in particular the Gali district. This has, unfortunately, remained the case during the first months of 2007. Indeed, the overall security situation in the Gali sector has been characterized by high tensions between the two sides throughout most of the reporting period, in particular in relation to the self-styled elections.

13. The Abkhaz side deployed additional militia personnel and established additional posts throughout the Gali district. The overall militia strength, however, remained below the 600 threshold as stipulated in the Gali Protocol of May 2000. UNOMIG continued increased patrolling, with a particular focus along the ceasefire line and key areas within the security zone. The Mission also deployed, when required, a forward patrol base in lower Gali, co-located with the checkpoint of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

14. On 1 March an exchange of fire took place across the ceasefire line between Abkhaz militia and Georgian law enforcement officers. The incident occurred during a protest against the self-styled election by a newly established Georgian youth movement, which took place on the ceasefire line near Shamgona, south of the Inguri Bridge. Several Zugdidi students crossed back and forth over the ceasefire line. Three of them were apprehended on the Abkhaz side by the militia, who fired warning shots in the air. This, in turn, prompted a protracted exchange of small arms fire between the Abkhaz militia and Georgian police officers. No casualties were reported. The firing stopped when a special UNOMIG patrol arrived at the scene. A UNOMIG fact-finding team investigation into the incident was subsequently initiated. UNOMIG cautioned that the exercise of civil and political rights in the vicinity of the ceasefire line should be carried out in a manner that does not allow for misunderstandings, miscalculation and subsequent violence. UNOMIG conveyed to the Abkhaz side the demand of the Georgian side that the three students be released.

15. Criminal activity as reported to UNOMIG patrols included six shootings, six robberies and four abductions. The resurgence of brutal kidnappings for ransom is a worrisome development. In a high profile case, on 3 February David Sigua, Head of the Gali de facto Election Committee, was abducted from his home in Gali town by unknown perpetrators. The Abkhaz side claimed that Georgian Special Forces were behind the incident and that the reason for the abduction was his cooperation with the de facto authorities, as was the case with Pridon Chakaberia. The Georgian side denied any involvement.

16. UNOMIG has increased its support for efforts to combat crime. The United Nations police have already conducted five training courses for 55 local law enforcement officers in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts. UNOMIG cooperation for the remainder of 2007 will focus on training; equipment; information exchange and advice; and support to cooperation on law enforcement issues across the ceasefire line.

17. Since March, an international human rights officer from the Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, has been assigned to the UNOMIG Gali sector

headquarters with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Office and liaising with the newly created Human Rights Centre in Gali created by Gali and Sukhumi-based non-governmental organizations. The Human Rights Centre's programme for 2007 includes legal aid to Gali residents; human rights training, including training of local de facto administration; awareness-building; and the creation of an information and resource centre.

18. On 6 February, in an address to the residents of the Gali district, de facto President Sergei Bagapsh gave an assurance that there would be no forceful imposition of Abkhaz citizenship, and that the de facto legislation provided for alternative ways to enjoy resident's status.

19. During the reporting period, the issue of the language of instruction remained of concern to the local population and those willing to return. The situation was essentially unchanged, with instruction taking place in Russian in upper Gali district and Gali town, and in Georgian in lower Gali district.

Zugdidi sector

20. The overall security situation in Zugdidi sector remained calm, although affected by the tense environment in the overall zone of conflict. Two killings, nine shooting incidents and one robbery were reported to UNOMIG patrols. Georgian movement through the security zone to and from the upper Kodori valley declined significantly due to harsh winter conditions and closure of the Khida Pass. UNOMIG observed no overland movement of military transport during that period. On 26 February, following improved weather conditions, UNOMIG redeployed its temporary observation post, co-located with the CIS peacekeeping force checkpoint in the Zugdidi security zone on the road to the upper Kodori valley.

21. During the reporting period, UNOMIG observed a total of 22 Georgian overflights through the security zone. As mentioned in my previous report, UNOMIG and the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs have been discussing a process of notification and verification for all movements through the security zone to and from the upper Kodori valley. In February, UNOMIG and the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs agreed on such enhanced transparency in the security zone. Eight flights were so far notified. The Mission emphasizes the need for a comprehensive notification and verification mechanism to be in place when the Khida Pass reopens in spring. In addition, subject to the security environment and appropriate guarantees, UNOMIG plans to reactivate its team base in Adjara, upper Kodori valley, which should contribute to the transparency of air transport to the valley.

22. On 16 February, Pridon Chakaberia was sentenced by a Zugdidi court to 10 years imprisonment for possession of and trafficking in narcotics (see S/2007/15, paras. 8 and 16). The Abkhaz side maintained its position as stated in paragraphs 8 and 15 above.

23. On 3 March, Georgian youth movements organized a demonstration on the Inguri Bridge to demand the release of the three Georgian youths detained by the Abkhaz side (see para. 14) and in opposition to the self-styled elections. UNOMIG, in cooperation with the CIS peacekeeping force, Zugdidi police and organizers of the demonstration, deployed two highly visible patrols prior to and throughout the duration of the demonstration, which passed without incident. On 14 March, a

peaceful demonstration, organized by the same youth movements, was held outside the Mission's Zugdidi headquarters.

24. During the reporting period, the United Nations police conducted 13 training courses for 153 local law enforcement personnel in basic policing skills, crime scene management and community policing. In addition, the United Nations police facilitated participation by 15 Georgian police officers in a modern policing training course at the Police College of the Estonian Public Service Academy, which took place from mid-January to mid-February. From 20 to 23 March, 25 Zugdidi police officers, including 13 women, participated in a conference on fostering a culture of human rights, which was organized by United Nations police and financed by the Council of Europe. For the first time, the United Nations police also conducted eight joint patrols with Georgian police within the security zone. The United Nations police also continued implementation of its community policing and gender equality project by conducting, in conjunction with Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti Women's Police Association, crime prevention courses throughout the Zugdidi district.

Kodori valley

25. On 26 February, UNOMIG conducted a one-day patrol through the lower Kodori valley to assess road conditions and the feasibility of re-establishing a temporary observation post co-located with the CIS peacekeeping force check post in upper Lata.

26. From 5 to 7 March, UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force conducted a third joint patrol of the lower and upper Kodori valley after a two-month break due to adverse weather and road conditions (see S/2007/15, paras. 19 and 20). The joint patrol was provided with the usual security guarantees and excellent cooperation from both sides. It aimed at ensuring transparency in the deployment of security forces in the valley and observing its consistency with the 1994 Moscow Agreement. The joint patrol travelled extensively throughout lower and upper Kodori valley and was afforded full access to security personnel, posts and installations. The patrol en route did not observe any change in the deployment of the Abkhaz militia check posts in the lower Kodori valley. In the upper Kodori valley, Georgian officials provided details of their security force deployment, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It included 284 personnel on rotational deployment from the criminal police and special tasks departments; and 100 locally recruited border guards. The personnel from the criminal police and special tasks departments were armed with personal weapons. Section weapons (rocket-propelled grenade launchers and machine guns) were available for deployment from armouries. Ammunition stores and logistic and maintenance bases were open for inspection. The patrol saw boxes of 23mm ammunition that had been declared during the previous patrol. Georgian officials reiterated that there were no heavy weapons corresponding to this ammunition. The patrol recommended that, in accordance with the 1994 Moscow Agreement, this ammunition be withdrawn from the valley. In general, the patrol did not observe any deployment of heavy weapons. The patrol observed that the two armoured recovery vehicles that were inspected in December 2006 had been converted to provide a medical evacuation capability under the Red Cross sign. UNOMIG would propose that they be replaced with civilian vehicles once the Khida Pass is reopened. UNOMIG has taken note of the intention of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to align its presence in the upper Kodori valley with manning levels elsewhere in Georgia and will continue to follow this process.

27. Late in the evening of 11 March, the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs informed UNOMIG that five helicopters had approached the upper Kodori valley from the north and fired rockets at the villages of Chkhalta and Adjara. In addition, some artillery (GRAD type) rockets, allegedly fired from the south, had also hit the upper Kodori valley. The Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia building in Chkhalta and a Ministry of Internal Affairs post were damaged, but no casualties were reported. The CIS peacekeeping force checkpoint at upper Lata, in the lower Kodori valley, reported observing flares and hearing bursts of automatic weapons fire and truck movement. A Joint Fact-Finding Group investigation was convened on 12 March with the consent and participation of all its members, namely the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, the CIS peacekeeping force and UNOMIG. In an unprecedented development, Georgian Joint Fact-Finding Group participants accompanied the Group through the Abkhaz-controlled territory en route to the upper Kodori valley, and Abkhaz representatives accompanied the Group throughout the investigation in the upper Kodori valley. So far, the Group has carried out two visits to various locations in the upper Kodori valley where the incident took place to examine the impact sites, collect evidence, make measurements and interview witnesses. It has also held four sessions to discuss its findings and attempt to come to common conclusions regarding the circumstances of the 11 March events. The investigation is still in progress. UNOMIG has taken note with appreciation of the fact that, notwithstanding the seriousness of the incident, the two sides and the international community have taken a prudent stance in their public statements and allowed the Joint Fact-Finding Group the necessary time to carry out its difficult work.

28. On 21 February, UNOMIG, the CIS peacekeeping force and the Georgian and Abkhaz sides cooperated in an emergency medical evacuation of a Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs serviceman from the upper Kodori valley through the lower Kodori valley to Zugdidi. The evacuation had been requested by the Georgian side due to the inaccessibility of the upper Kodori valley from the Khida Pass or by helicopter.

Mission-wide developments

29. During the period under review, two violations of the 1994 Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces were issued as follows: on 20 January to the Abkhaz side for the presence on 10 January of an Abkhaz armoured personnel carrier carrying seven soldiers near the Ochamchira training area in the restricted weapons zone; on 16 March to the Georgian side for the presence since 15 February of a Georgian military police detachment in Zugdidi town, which is in the security zone.

30. Weekly quadripartite meetings, which bring together the two sides to the conflict, UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force to discuss security issues in the conflict zone, remained suspended (see S/2007/15, para. 26). The Joint Fact-Finding Group at present has seven cases under investigation, including the 11 March incident in the upper Kodori valley (see para. 27 above), with three others awaiting closure.

31. Maritime incidents off the coastal waters of Abkhazia, Georgia, contributed to the rise in tensions. On 10 January, the Georgian Coast Guard entered Abkhaz-controlled waters and detained two foreign fishing boats, which the Abkhaz side regarded as a provocation. On 6 February, the Abkhaz de facto Foreign Minister

informed UNOMIG that Georgian fishing vessels, accompanied by Georgian patrol boats, were operating near Ochamchira, and that the Abkhaz side was preparing to take imminent action. UNOMIG was in contact with both sides to rapidly de-escalate the situation, which prevented an armed confrontation. Subsequently, UNOMIG increased its coastal patrols.

IV. Cooperation with the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States

32. UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force maintained close cooperation in fulfilling their respective mandates. In addition to joint patrols in both the lower and upper Kodori valley, the CIS peacekeeping force also provided logistical assistance to the Mission's temporary forward bases established adjacent to one of its checkpoints in lower Gali and its temporary observation post in Zugdidi sector (see paras. 13 and 20). On 14 February, UNOMIG conducted an emergency rescue exercise with the CIS peacekeeping force.

V. Human rights issues

33. During the reporting period, the Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, successfully completed the first stage of its free legal aid to the vulnerable project, which is funded by the Government of Finland and implemented by the Association of Abkhaz Lawyers. In total, 117 persons were provided with legal aid in 106 civil and 11 criminal cases throughout Abkhazia, Georgia, including in remote areas of Gali and Ochamchira districts. The project concluded with a round table on the theme of presumption of innocence, with the participation of representatives from de facto law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's office and courts. Participants recommended that this service be extended to other areas where legal aid services are practically non-existent.

34. Property rights violations continued to be an important issue. A new civil code has been passed by the de facto parliament, which guarantees court protection of property rights. However, courts have continued to decline as inadmissible claims filed by owners displaced by hostilities since 1992 to repossess their illegally occupied property. The Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, has repeatedly drawn the attention of the de facto authorities to the need to discontinue this practice.

35. In March, the de facto authorities appointed a presidential commissioner for human rights. The commissioner is expected to present, by June, a report on the situation of human rights on the territory and to make, on this basis, proposals to the de facto Parliament on the establishment of mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

VI. Humanitarian and rehabilitation activities

36. The Mission continued to rehabilitate three hospitals in the conflict zone as part of the rehabilitation programme funded by the European Commission. Work on

the Tkvarcheli hospital has been completed and rehabilitation of the two hospitals in Ochamchira and Zugdidi is expected to be concluded in mid-April.

37. United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations continued to assist vulnerable groups affected by the conflict on the Abkhaz-controlled side of the ceasefire line. The United Nations Development Programme continued its integrated recovery programme and activities in the framework of the rehabilitation programme funded by the European Commission in the zone of conflict. Its activities included agricultural income-generation assistance, water rehabilitation projects and capacity-building efforts for local stakeholders in the Gali, Tkvarcheli and Ochamchira districts; and maintenance of the Sukhumi information centre for the international and local aid community working in the region.

38. On the sidelines of the Geneva meeting (see para. 5), the Georgian and Abkhaz sides met with the Assistant United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Both sides reiterated their support for the strategic paper on returns (see S/2005/453, para. 5), prepared by UNHCR. UNHCR reaffirmed the right to return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and encouraged the sides to focus on practical steps.

39. In the zone of conflict, UNHCR and its partner organizations, the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, continued to implement its humanitarian assistance programme. During the reporting period, this included the distribution of firewood, shelter assistance, microgrants and related training, agricultural support and small-scale community mobilization projects.

40. Since January 2007, the World Food Programme (WFP) has provided on-site feeding for 10,000 schoolchildren in 82 schools throughout Abkhazia, Georgia, and has launched a new round of agricultural assets rehabilitation providing food to 12,000 beneficiaries in the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts in collaboration with World Vision International.

41. With financial support from the United States of America and the European Commission, the HALO Trust continued mine clearance and explosive ordnance disposal throughout Abkhazia, Georgia. Owing to heavy snow and poor weather conditions, HALO suspended its activities in the Kodori valley until the beginning of March.

42. World Vision International launched the third phase of its school feeding and agricultural assets rehabilitation programme in partnership with WFP, and continued its back-to-school project, which has returned almost 70 children to school in Ochamchira. It expanded its microcredit disbursements in Gali and Sukhumi to 200 small businessmen and continued business and management education for the local university, local non-governmental organizations and district administrations. Première Urgence completed its housing rehabitation in Abkhazia programme, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and rehabilitated 11 apartment blocks and 200 individual houses/flats throughout Abkhazia, Georgia. Première Urgence also launched a new programme, funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), to improve the livelihoods and food security of 550 farmers in the Sukhumi, Gulripsh, Tkvarcheli, Gali and Ochamchira districts. The Swedish foundation, Kvinna till Kvinna, started its fourth joint project on peacebuilding by bringing together two women's non-governmental

organizations for internally displaced persons, one Abkhaz and the other Georgian, and also continued its long-term funding for five Abkhaz women's organizations. Médecins Sans Frontières continues to support its tuberculosis programme, and its health access programme, although being downsized, continued to build quality of care for the extremely vulnerable in Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli. The International Committee of the Red Cross and other international and non-government organizations also continued to provide support throughout Abkhazia, Georgia.

VII. Support issues

43. UNOMIG has identified for repair in 2007 key roads and bridges in the zone of conflict used by its military observers for patrolling.

44. UNOMIG maintained its awareness campaign on the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS through its induction training. The Mission training cell, in collaboration with the medical team, facilitated the distribution of HIV/AIDS material. The Mission also continued implementation of preventive measures and policies on zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse. No cases of either sexual exploitation and abuse or sexual harassment were reported. Since my previous report, 20 additional military and 6 new civilian personnel have been briefed on sexual exploitation and abuse. The Mission continued its successful outreach programme on sexual exploitation and abuse for the local population by circulating posters in the community and advertisements through the local electronic and print media in cooperation with its in-country network of United Nations agencies and international and local non-governmental organizations.

VIII. Financial aspects

45. In its resolution 60/273, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $34.8 million for the maintenance of UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate for UNOMIG beyond 15 April 2007, the cost of maintaining the Observer Mission until 30 June 2007 would be limited to the amount approved by the General Assembly. The proposed budget for UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 would be considered by the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-first session.

46. As at 31 December 2006, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNOMIG amounted to $13.4 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,890 million.

47. As at 31 December 2006, the amount owed for equipment costs totalled $184,000. Owing to the Mission's precarious financial situation, reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment costs has been suspended since 1 October 2004 and continues to be in arrears.

IX. Observations

48. Like the Group of Friends at the meeting held at Gevena on 13 and 14 February, I welcome progress made by the two sides towards implementation of Security Council resolution 1716 (2006). In particular I welcome the continuation of joint patrolling of the Kodori valley by UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force. I note with satisfaction that no heavy weapons were observed in the valley and that, compared with the situation observed by the October 2006 joint patrol, the number of armed personnel has decreased. I am encouraged by the start of a notification and verification process on the Zugdidi side of the security zone. I welcome as well the expansion of UNOMIG assistance to the Gali district in terms of both the activities of the United Nations police advisers and the full-time presence there of the Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia. I hope that the appointment of a presidential commissioner for human rights by the de facto Abkhaz authorities will enable them to address better human rights issues raised by UNOMIG as well as local non-governmental organizations. I also hope that each side will value the steps thus taken by the other side, and will take further measures to improve the confidence between them, in line with the commitments given in Geneva.

49. Against this positive background, the events of 11 March in the upper Kodori valley were a major setback. While, fortunately, causing no casualty, the incident offered a reminder of the risks with which the conflict is still fraught, and the potential for existing tensions to take a violent course. I hope that the investigation carried out by the Joint Fact-Finding Group will help clarify the circumstances behind this incident; and I am grateful to the two sides for the moderation they have shown in their public statements and for allowing the Group the time needed to fulfil its difficult task. I also believe that, after the October 2006 incident when three surface-to-surface missiles landed in the upper Kodori valley, this new development highlights the need for the parties and the international community to approach the situation in the Kodori valley also in terms of prevention. Indeed, with very limited international observation, the Kodori valley will most likely remain vulnerable to further incidents if no measures are taken. The planned reactivation, security permitting, of the UNOMIG team base in Adjara, in the upper Kodori valley, will partially address this issue. In consultation with all concerned, the United Nations will reflect further on ways and means to strengthen the peacekeeping regime in that region in order to lower the possibility of a recurrence of such incidents.

50. While the Kodori valley has been the scene of the most dramatic development during the period under review, I regret to note that the situation along the ceasefire line has remained tense since my previous report to the Security Council. While there have been no casualties, cooperation between the two sides on security issues and combating crime is almost non-existent, in contrast to the situation during the same period last year. The exchange of fire that took place on 1 March shows the need for both sides to exercise the utmost restraint and caution in and around the ceasefire line. In Geneva, both sides acknowledged the deterioration of the situation along the ceasefire line and expressed their readiness to redress it. I urge them to make good on this commitment and to take every precaution in order to avoid situations that can lead to violence. I remind that both sides have expressed their support to the return of internally displaced people, in the first instance to the Gali district, and the implementation of the UNHCR plan to that effect. However, further return of internally displaced persons and the improvement of the situation of the

Gali residents will only become a realistic prospect if the ceasefire line becomes an area of genuine cooperation, not confrontation. UNOMIG will pay particular attention to this problem in the upcoming period.

51. In Geneva, the two sides reaffirmed their support for dialogue, including at the highest level. This is an area where the provisions of Security Council resolution 1716 (2006) have remained unimplemented. I am convinced that while unilateral measures by each side aimed at confidence-building remain necessary, they are not sufficient; and direct negotiation is irreplaceable in addressing security matters, rehabilitation and economic cooperation and the larger issues relating to a political settlement. My Special Representative and UNOMIG will seek to assist the two sides in overcoming those issues that still stand in the way of genuine negotiations. I trust that, in meeting these challenges, the United Nations will continue to rely on the support of the Group of Friends, which proved again invaluable during the period under review, as well as the assistance of other international organizations and Member States. I continue to believe that the presence of UNOMIG contributes to security in the conflict zone and international efforts to promote political dialogue between the parties. I therefore, recommend that the mandate of UNOMIG be extended for six months, until 15 October 2007.

52. In concluding, I wish to reiterate my tribute to my Special Representative, Jean Arnault, the Chief Military Observer, Major General Niaz Muhammad Khan Khattak, and the men and women of UNOMIG for their dedication to the search for a fair and lasting solution to this unresolved conflict, in a complex and tense environment.

Annex

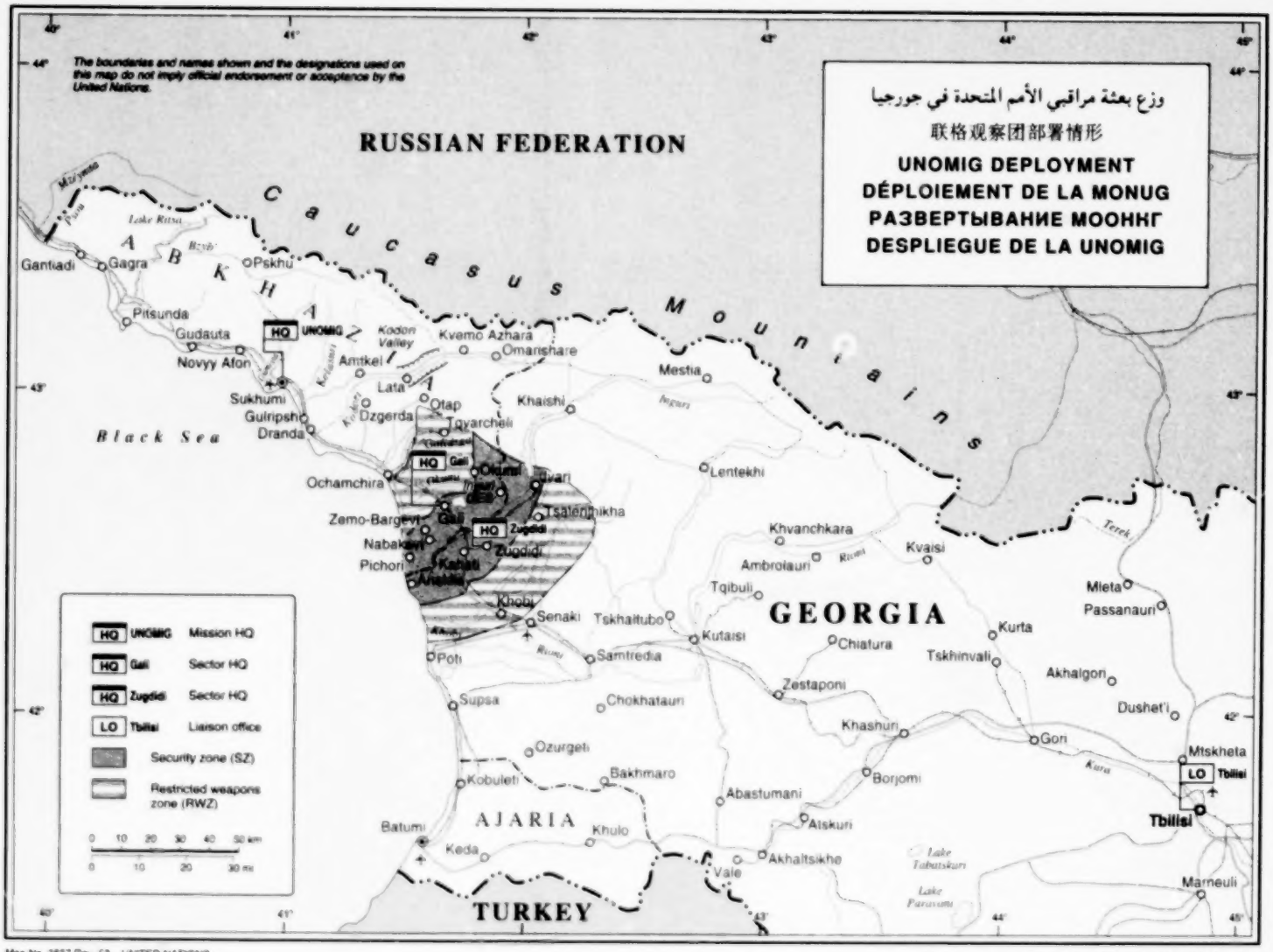
Countries providing military observers and civilian police personnel (as at 1 April 2007)

Country	*Military observers*
Albania	3
Austria	2
Bangladesh	7
Croatia	2
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	6
Egypt	6
France	3
Germany	12
Greece	5
Hungary	7
Indonesia	4
Jordan	7
Lithuania	2
Moldova	1
Pakistan	11[a]
Poland	5
Republic of Korea	8
Romania	1
Russian Federation	3
Sweden	3
Switzerland	5
Turkey	5
Ukraine	5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5
United States of America	2
Uruguay	3
Yemen	1
Total	**129**

[a] Including the Chief Military Observer.

Country	*Civilian police personnel*
Germany	4
Ghana	1
Poland	2
Russian Federation	2
Switzerland	3
Ukraine	1[a]
Total	**13**

[a] The Senior Police Adviser.



Map No. 3837 Rev. 53 UNITED NATIONS
April 2007

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section

United Nations A/61/834–S/2007/183

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 April 2007
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 13
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 2 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations during the month of February 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-29422 (E) 050407 050407

Annex to the identical letters dated 2 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

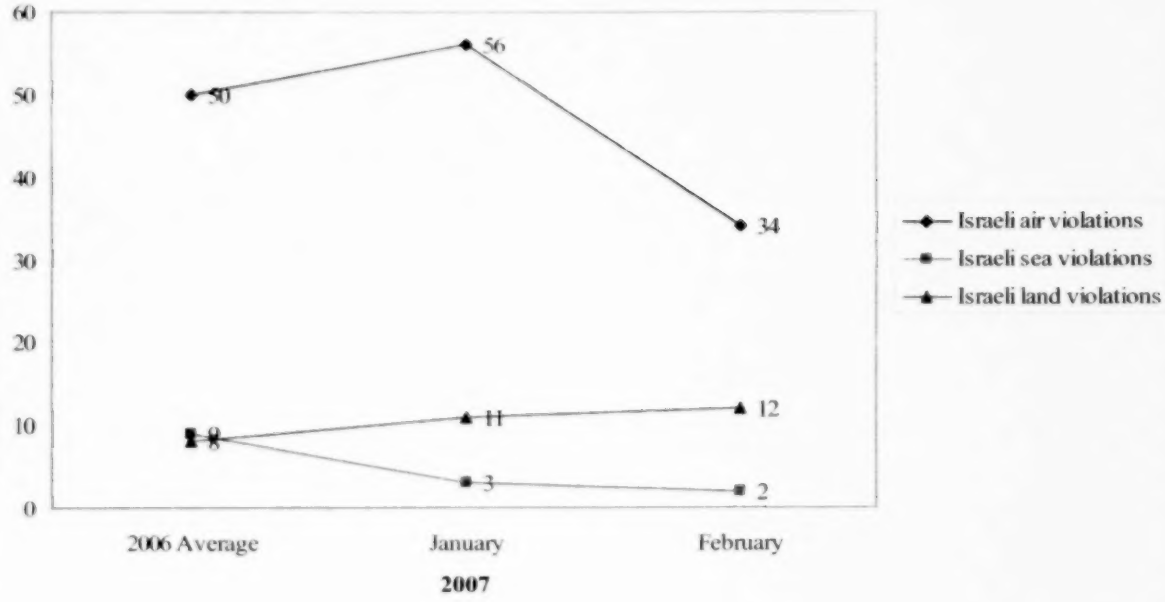
Violations and activities	*Place*	*Date*	*Comments*
Overflight by hostile military and reconnaissance aircraft	The South	1/2	
Firing by enemy forces of four (4) flare bombs in the direction of Lebanese territory	Opposite Marun al-Ra's	3/2	
Firing by enemy forces of several flare shells over the Blue Line, of which two landed inside Lebanese territory	Opposite the towns of Balida and `Aytarun	4/2	
Firing by the enemy of three (3) smoke bombs approximately six (6) metres into Lebanese territory, followed by bursts of fire to detonate explosive devices; then approximately 20 personnel proceeded to search the area	Opposite Marun al-Ra's	5/2	
Overflight by hostile military aircraft	The South		
Overflight by hostile military, helicopter, and reconnaissance aircraft	The South	7/2	
Firing by enemy forces of several flare shells	Opposite Mays al-Jabal, Balida and Rumaysh		
A D9 bulldozer and a trench-digger belonging to the Israeli enemy crossed the Blue Line. Immediately afterwards, an Army patrol proceeded to open fire in their direction. The bulldozer ceased work but the digger continued its work. Enemy forces then fired a LAU missile in the direction of a Lebanese Army vehicle, scoring a direct hit with no casualties resulting. The bulldozer and digger then withdrew in the direction of occupied territory	Opposite Marun al-Ra's		
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	The South	8/2	

Violations and activities	Place	Date	Comments
Shining by enemy forces of searchlights in the direction of the Lebanese Army position at Mays al-Jabal	Mays al-Jabal		
Performance by enemy forces of maintenance on barbed wire strip	Opposite ʿAytarun	9/2	
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	The South	10/2	
Abuse directed by an enemy soldier at a Lebanese Army soldier	Fatimah Gate		
Performance by enemy forces of maintenance on barbed wire strip	Opposite Marun al-Raʾs	11/2	
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	Most regions of Lebanon		
Performance by enemy forces of maintenance on barbed wire strip	Opposite Marun al-Raʾs and the ʿAbbasiyah area	12/2	
Firing by hostile military launches of several bursts of fire in the direction of a Lebanese fishing vessel, and of a flare bomb in the open sea	Opposite Raʾ' al-Naqurah		
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	The South		
Performance by enemy forces of maintenance on barbed wire strip	Opposite Rumaysh	13/2	
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance and helicopter aircraft	The South	14/2	
Performance by enemy forces of technical work on excess water collected inside occupied Palestinian territory so as to allow it to run off into Lebanese territory	Opposite the Kafr Kila-ʿAdaysah road	15/2	
Overflight by hostile helicopter aircraft	Over the Tall al-Ghabayin and Batishiyah positions	18/2	
Firing by enemy forces of several flare bombs, of which two fell inside Lebanese territory	Opposite Marun al-Raʾs		

Violations and activities	*Place*	*Date*	*Comments*
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	The South and the Bekaa	19/2	
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	The South	20/2	
Overflight by hostile military and reconnaissance aircraft, which released heat balloons over the city of al-Nabatiyah and the town of Duwayr	Most areas of Lebanon	21/2	They were met with Army anti-aircraft
Aiming by an Israeli soldier of his rifle while another requested a gunner to disembark from a personnel carrier during an Army patrol in 'Adaysah	'Adaysah		
Shining by enemy forces of searchlights in the direction of the outskirts of the towns of Yarun and Bint Jubayl	The outskirts of Yarun and Bint Jubayl		
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	The South	22/2	
While a Lebanese Army foot patrol was moving along the buffer strip a hostile vehicle appeared from the opposite direction. Three personnel disembarked and proceeded to cock their weapons and aim them in the direction of the Army patrol personnel, who in turn cocked their weapons and took up combat positions. This prompted the enemy personnel to take cover in neighbouring groves	Near Fatima gate	23/2	
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	The South	24/2	
Aiming by enemy patrol personnel of their weapons in the direction of a citizen on the border road	The border road	25/2	
Positioning by an enemy patrol of its Hummer jeep and six personnel in combat formation while aiming their weapons in the direction of Lebanese territory	Opposite the road between Kafr Kila and 'Adaysah	26/2	
Overflight by hostile reconnaissance aircraft	The South	28/2	

Appendix (1) to the annex to letter no. 123/*'ayn-mim*/inquiry/*sin* dated 19 March 2007

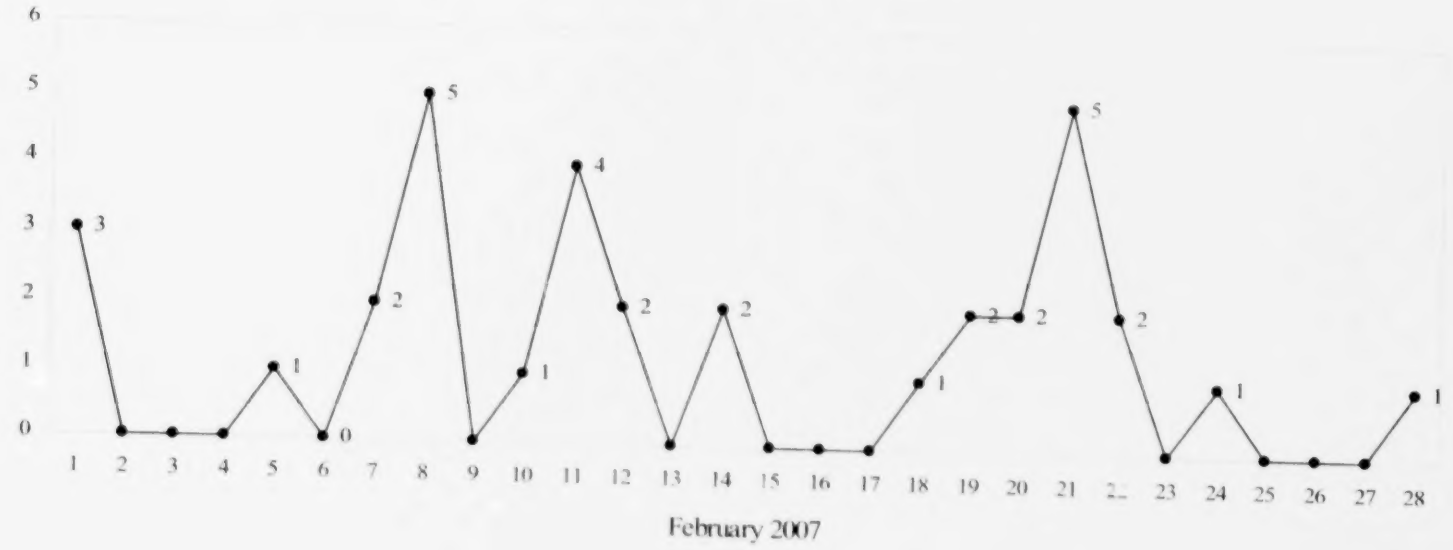
Chart of Israeli air, sea and land violations



Appendix (2) to the annex to letter no. 123/*ʿayn-mim*/inquiry/*sin* dated 19 March 2007

Chart of daily Israeli air, sea and land violations

Day	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*
Israeli air violations	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	0	1	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	1



United Nations A/61/835–S/2007/184

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 April 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 76 and 80

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 31 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note verbale dated 30 March 2007, addressed to the British Embassy in Tehran by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, regarding the illegal act of firing shots by the British military forces at the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra, Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 76 and 80, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**

07-29416 (E) 040407

Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the British Embassy in Tehran and has the honour to draw the attention of the latter to the following:

According to the information received from relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Thursday 9 Farvardin 1386 (29 March 2007) at 10.30 a.m., the British military forces, in four armoured vehicles and with full military equipment, approached the premises of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra, Iraq, and fired shots at the building for more than 10 minutes. The said forces left the area at 11.45 a.m. This was the third time that the British military forces approached the Iranian Consulate General in Basra, and the first time they fired shots at the building, in the course of the past month.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while strongly protesting against this act of the British military forces in Basra, which violates the principles of international law governing diplomatic premises and the mandate of British forces in Iraq, calls for the prevention of the recurrence of such acts and emphasizes that the responsibility for the consequences of any recurrence of such incidents lies with the British Government.